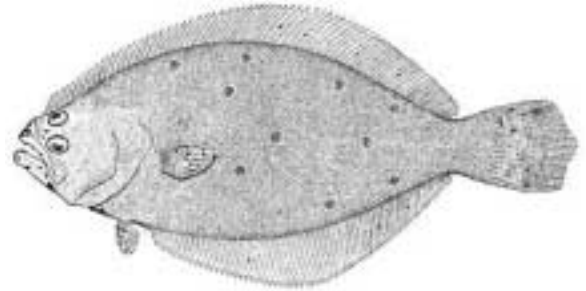


**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station
30 Emerson Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930
(978) 282-0308**

Paul J. Diodati
Director

TO: Concerned Agencies

DATE: August 24, 2001



MASSACHUSETTS FLUKE COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO CLOSE ON AUGUST 31

The 2001 commercial Massachusetts fluke quota (645,633 lbs.) is projected to be reached by Thursday, August 30. Therefore, from August 31 through the end of the year fluke cannot be taken, possessed, or landed for commercial purposes in Massachusetts waters or ports.

Completed fluke catch reports from fishermen are due on September 30, 2001. Licenses will not be issued for 2002 until completed fluke catch reports have been submitted.

Fluke dealer transaction sheets are due to the Division by September 30, 2001. All dealers that are authorized to purchase fluke AND do not hold a Federal Dealer Permit are required to submit these transaction sheets, even if there were no purchases made this season. Dealer licenses will not be issued for 2002 until completed fluke transaction sheets have been submitted. Transaction sheets should be sent to (please do not fax):

Division of Marine Fisheries
Statistics Project
30 Emerson Ave
Gloucester, MA 01930

All fishermen are reminded that the fluke recreational size limit is 16 ½ inches and the bag limit is 7 fish per day. The fluke recreational season will close on September 6, 2001.

Any proposals for changes to the 2002 fishery will be discussed at upcoming public hearings in late November. Please subscribe to DMF News or access the DMF web site for announcements. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries appreciates your cooperation in this matter. Questions may be directed to:

Regulations:
MaDMF
(617)626-1520

Dealer Transaction Sheets and Fishermen Catch Reports:
Holly McBride
(978)282-0308 x.104